

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

POLLUTION REPORT

DATE: July 22, 1988

Region II
Response and Prevention Branch
Edison, New Jersey 08837

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(201) 548-8730 - Commercial and FTS
24 Hour Emergency

POLREP NO.: Thirty-five (35)
INCIDENT NAME: Arkansas Chemical Company
SITE/SPILL NO.: T9
POLLUTANT: Textile chemicals and intermediates
CLASSIFICATION: Major
SOURCE: Abandoned chemical facility
LOCATION: Newark, New Jersey
AMOUNT: 20,000 containers of various chemicals,
1500 drums (600 empty), 87 indoor and
outdoor tanks of which less than ten
hold oil, acid, and unknowns.
WATER BODY: None

1. SITUATION:

A. The Arkansas Chemical Company produced textile and other specialty chemicals at this site until it was abandoned in 1983. Abandoned on this site are a two-story office/laboratory building (Bldg. 25/30), a machine shop (Bldg. 26), a small chemical processing building (Bldg. 27), a large four-story chemical process building (Bldg. 28), boiler room/tank house (Bldg. 16/16B), a storage building (Bldg. 24), and two sheds (S1 & S2). About 1500 drums and 20,000 small containers of chemicals exist in these buildings. In addition, there are approximately 17 aboveground storage tanks and 70 process tanks/reaction vessels.



2. ACTION TAKEN:

A. Listed below are the major waste streams of hazardous materials classified on-site and their current status. An estimated 45,738 gallons of material remain on-site.

- ✓ 1) Base/Neutral and Oxidizer Liquids, Oxidizer and Reactive Solids (28% of total waste streams) 9,000 gallons, 33 gallons, 5 gallons and 3 gallons respectively are mixed together in a bulking chamber stored behind building 28. For safety purposes the opening to this chamber was sealed and padlocked.
- ✓ 2) Flammable and Organic Liquids (13% of total waste streams) 2,745 gallons and 3,100 gallons respectively are mixed together in a bulking chamber behind building 28B. As an added measure of security, approximately 5,000 gallons of this material was pumped into a holding pool inside of building 28 on January 20, 1988. Due to settling, approximately 1,000 gallons of material had solidified which prohibited complete transfer. Currently, the solid material is stored in the sealed bulking chamber.
- ✓ 3) Acid Liquids (7% of total waste streams) 3,200 gallons of this material are staged in their original containers inside building 28. Disposal analysis has been performed and waste facility acceptance is under way.
- ✓ 4) Cyanide Liquids (<1% of total waste streams) 44 gallons of this material are staged in their original containers inside building 28. Disposal analysis has been performed and waste facility acceptance is under way.
- 5) Peroxide Liquids and Solids (2% of total waste streams) 650 gallons and ~~20~~ gallons respectively of these materials are bulked together in overpack drums inside building 28. Disposal analysis has been performed and waste facility acceptance is under way.
- ✓ 6) Halogenated Organic Liquids (1% of total waste streams) 583 gallons of this material are staged in overpack drums inside building 28. Disposal analysis has been performed and waste facility acceptance is under way.
- ✓ 7) Base/Neutral Solids (33% of total waste streams) 15,000 gallons of this material are staged in their original containers inside building 28. Disposal analysis has indicated that this material qualifies for landfill disposal.

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8) Acid Solids (9% of total waste streams) 4,200 gallons of this material are staged in their original containers inside building 28. Disposal analysis has indicated that the pH needs to be ~~lowered~~ prior to disposal. ^{increased}

(W) 9) Cyanide Solids (<1% of total waste streams) 90 gallons of this material are staged in their original containers inside building 28. Disposal analysis has been performed and waste facility acceptance is under way.

/ 10) Organic and Flammable Solids (7% of total waste streams) 2,500 gallons and 575 gallons respectively have been bulked together in their original containers inside building 28. Disposal analysis has been performed and waste facility acceptance is under way.

B. Aside from the main waste streams yet to be disposed of, the following material will require removal from site and appropriate disposal:

1) The disposal of nearly 20,000 laboratory reagent bottles is complete with the exception of 9 specific wastes. These wastes include explosives, mercury compounds and PCB's. Alternate disposal methods for these items are under way.

2) Three gas cylinders, two of which are unknown, remain onsite. Disposal via manufacturer identification is under way.

3) All asbestos material has been stabilized in place and awaits final mitigation.

4) Nearly 600 empty drums are staged inside building 24 awaiting cleaning and shredding.

C. The site was temporarily demobilized in January, 1988, to await additional funding necessary to complete this removal action. 24 hour site security has been maintained since that time.

D. On June 8, 1988, a \$2 million exemption letter was signed by the Regional Administrator. The letter requests an additional \$1,586,000, of which \$1,131,000 is for mitigation contracting. This will raise the total site ceiling to \$3,554,000, of which \$2,731,000 is for mitigation contracting. The exemption letter was granted final approval by headquarters on July 11, 1988. Due to budgetary constraints facing the Removal Program at this time, only \$725,000 of the \$1,131,000 approved for mitigation

contracting has been obligated to the ERCS contractor. It is uncertain at this time when the remaining funds will be approved for obligation to the ERCS contractor.

E. Site security reported an attempted break-in to building 28 during the week of July 11, 1988. In response to this the OSC made an on-site visit to verify that no vandalism had occurred. On July 19, 1988, TAT made a thorough on-site inspection to further verify the stability of hazardous wastes remaining on site. During inspection TAT evacuated a substantial amount of rainwater that had collected in the visqueen which covered the drums in building 28B.

3. FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. 24 hour site security will be maintained until the current funding expires. At that time it will either be resumed until completion of site work or terminated due to budgetary constraints.

B. EPA and TAT will make periodic on-site inspections to ensure stability of hazardous wastes remaining on site.

C. Remobilization for mitigation action is tentatively scheduled for the week of August 8, 1988.

4. FINANCIAL STATUS

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|--|-------------|
| A. Total Project Ceiling Authorized | \$3,552,009 |
| B. Mitigation Contract Ceiling | \$2,781,000 |
| C. Expenditures for Mitigation Contracts | |
| 1.a Amount Obligated to ERCS contractor for Delivery Order #6893-02-073 and #7445-02-006 (DCNs KCS - 361,629,633,710,730, KE - 0001, 0027, 0035, 0044, 0045, 0083, 0101) as of July 22, 1988 | \$2,370,380 |
| 1.b Amount de-obligated due to contract rollover | \$ 1,991 |
| 1.c Total amount obligated to date | \$2,370,389 |
| 1.d Estimated mitigation expenditures as of July 22, 1988 | \$1,596,000 |
| 1.e Balance Remaining | \$ 774,389 |
| D. Unobligated Balance Remaining | \$ 410,611 |

E. Other Extramural Costs as of
July 22, 1988

1.a TAT Salary/Travel (estimated) \$ 106,000

1.b Analytical Costs \$ 6,628

F. Intramural Costs as of July 8, 1988

1.a EPA (Estimated Direct and
Indirect) \$ 77,833

G. Total Expenditures \$1,786,461
Percent of Total Project Ceiling 50.3%

FURTHER
POLREPS
FINAL POLREP _____ FORTHCOMING ✓ SUBMITTED BY Mark P. Pane
Mark P. Pane, OSC
Response and
Prevention Branch

DATE OF RELEASE: JULY 22, 1988